

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-12 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:RLWHITE:AC

APPROVED BY EA:LEEDMOND

EA/J:DBROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, XC

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA DONORS' GROUP

1. DEP. ASST. SECY. EDMOND MET WITH MASAMI TANIDA, DIRECTOR, FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION, ON OCTOBER 1 TO DISCUSS POSITIONS AT INDOCHINA DONORS' MEETING.

2. EDMOND STATED U.S. POSITION ON FORMATION OF UMBRELLA CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS FOR LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST JAPANESE SUPPORT AND CONCERN OVER INDICATIONS OF DECLINE IN JAPANESE ENTHUSIASM FOR SUBGROUP FOR SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. TANIDA REPLIED THAT JAPANESE POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED FROM OCTOBER 1973 MEETING, AND THAT GOJ DESIRES CONSULTATIVE GROUP UMBRELLA AND FORMATION OF SUBGROUPS FOR BOTH LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM. TANIDA AT FIRST SAID THIS WAS FOM OFF POSITION NOT YET FULLY COORDINATED WITH OTHER MINISTRIES, BUT LATER COMMENTED THAT HE FORESAW NO
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DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THEIR CONCURRENCE.

4. TANIDA STRESSED THAT A SOUTH VIETNAM SUBGROUP SHOULD CONSIST OF EUROPEAN MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO U.S. AND JAPAN. HOWEVER, JAPAN WOULD NOT INSIST THAT A MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE PARIS MEETING AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. EDMOND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD NOT INSIST ON TOO RIGOROUS REQUIREMENT IN THIS REGARD, NOTING

PRECEDENT OF PHILIPPINE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH JAPAN WAS WILLING TO JOIN WITH U.S. AS SOLE OTHER MEMBER. TANIDA RESPONDED VIETNAMESE SITUATION POLITICALLY DIFFERENT BUT THAT AN ACCEPTABLE SUBGROUP WOULD CONSIST OF U.S., JAPAN, AND PERHAPS TWO MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, E.G. FRANCE AND GERMANY; OR PERHAPS EITHER FRANCE OR GERMANY AND ONE OR TWO SMALLER EUROPEANS.

5. EDMOND EXPRESSED U.S. UNDERSTANDING THAT JAPAN DOES NOT PLAN TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING FORMATION OF SUBGROUPS. HOWEVER, HE HOPED JAPANESE WOULD SECOND PROPOSAL MADE BY ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND TANIDA AGREED GOJ WOULD DO SO AND SUPPORT PROPOSAL. TANIDA SUGGESTED U.S., ADB, OR IBRD TAKE INITIATIVE.

6. WHEN QUESTION OF DRV SUBGROUP RAISED, TANIDA INDICATED JAPAN WOULD PARTICIPATE IF SUBGROUP PROPOSED FOR DRV AND DRV ACCEPTS.

7. EDMOND AND TANIDA AGREED USG AND GOJ DELEGATION SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT IN PARIS. SISCO

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